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NEWSLETTER

100-1138

7 January 1988

Washington DC

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS. Most of us have now made our new year's resolutions and it is hoped all will be kept--and will be good for both body and soul! Your Congressman ran across one that he would like to pass along, and it goes this way:

"Resolve to be tender with the young, compassionate with the aged, sympathetic with the striving, and tolerant of the weak and wrong."

Sometime in life you will have been all of these--and a most happy new year to everyone in South Texas from your Congressman.

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PRESIDENT APPROVES SANCTIONS ON EEC IMPORTS IN LIVESTOCK IMPASSE. Two years ago, the European Economic Community (EEC) approved a directive which would require member nations to ban the import of U.S. livestock products if there were evidence of substances used to promote hormonal action. The U.S. government vigorously protested this action as an impediment to open international trading and a violation of the Agreement against technical barriers to trade.

On December 30, President Reagan announced retaliatory measures against the EEC **by approving higher duties on certain imports of EEC beef, pork, tomatoes, soluble or instant coffee extracts, certain fruit juices, certain fermented alcoholic beverages and pet foods.**

The EEC import ban on growth hormone treated U.S. livestock went into effect on January 1, 1988, but the EEC allowed all its member nations a 12 month grace period in which they can continue to accept U.S. livestock products. The President has said he will not implement the higher duties as long as the 12 month grace period is in effect.

So the day of reckoning may be 12 months away, but it is important to note that our government has taken decisive action in the face of EEC resistance to accepting U.S. livestock products treated with growth substances. The U.S. has steadfastly maintained there is little scientific evidence to support the EEC contention that such substances are injurious to human health.

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FUEL REFUND APPLICATION DEADLINE EXTENDED. The word was barely trickling around town, so we assume the U.S. Department of Energy felt compelled to extend until June 30, 1988, the deadline for making application to receive a refund on diesel and other crude oil products purchased between 1973 and 1981 when controls were in effect.

Some time ago there was quite a bit of publicity about a fuel overcharge situation, and now this is settled and the Energy Department will make refunds to fuel end-users who qualify. **Through legislation, the Congress instructed the Energy Department to do this.**

The fuel refund is based on the following calculation: .0008¢ per gallon purchased. For instance, if you can document having used 100,000 gallons of fuel during the time period in question, your refund is \$80.

If anyone is interested in making application to the Energy Department, just contact one of our Congressional District Offices: **in McAllen** at 1418 Beech Street, telephone 682-5545; or **in Alice** at 401 East 2nd Street, telephone 664-2215. We can supply you with information on this fuel refund opportunity.

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VISITORS FROM HOME. Mr Thomas P Champion Jr of Brownsville; Mr and Mrs Arnoldo Cantu Sr and son David, of San Juan--accompanied by their son-in-law and daughter, Mr and Mrs David Lopez (and their 3 children), who live in Lorton, Virginia, but are formerly of San Juan; and Captain and Mrs Fred Wilkerson and daughter Holly of Portland.

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